

Message Text

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45

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 301530Z JAN 74

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3705

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NY

S E C R E T GENEVA 607

EXDIS

BEIRUT PASS DAMASCUS

FROM MEPC DEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, XF, SY

SUBJECT: SYRIAN POSTURE ON MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT EFFORTS

REF: GENEVA 564

1. U.N. UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL GUYER CONTACTED DELOFF JANUARY 30 TO REVIEW CONVERSATION HE HELD PREVIOUS DAY WITH SYRIANS IN GENEVA, AS HE HAD TOLD US HE WOULD (REFTEL).

2. GUYER SAID HIS MEETING WITH SYRIANS HAD PRODUCED NOTHING CONCRETE. SYRIANS INDICATED THAT DAMASCUS WAS NOW WAITING TO SEE WHAT WOULD HAPPEN ON DISENGAGEMENT THROUGH ITS CURRENT CONTACTS WITH USG. WHAT STRUCK GUYER, HE SAID, WAS COMPLETE CHANGE OF TONE ON SYRIANS' PART RE U.S. INTERMEDIARY ROLE SINCE GUYER HAD SPOKEN WITH THEM AT END OF DECEMBER. SYRIANS NOW REFERRED TO U.S. ROLE POSITIVELY AND MADE NO PESSIMISTIC REFERENCES TO PROSPECTS FOR SATISFACTORY OUTCOME THROUGH U.S.

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3. POSSIBLE SYRIAN PARTICIPATION IN GENEVA CONFERENCE WAS DISCUSSED AT LENGTH, GUYER SAID. SYRIANS WERE ANXIOUS TO KNOW WHEN PALESTINIAN ISSUE WOULD BE TACKLED. SYRIANS ALSO REITERATED THEIR EARLIER LINE TO EFFECT THAT THE MOMENT CON-

REFERENCE SHOWED IT WAS GOING TO "WORK SERIOUSLY," SYRIA WOULD JOIN. GUYER SAID SYRIANS OFFIERED NO DEFINITION OF WHAT WOULD CONSTITUTE "WORKING SERIOUSLY," BUT HE FELT THEY SOUNDED SOMEWHAT MORE FLEXIBLE THAN IN PAST.

4. GUYER SAID HE ALSO HAD MET WITH VINOGRADOV JANUARY 29 TO SAY GOODBY. (GUYER RETURNS TO NEW YORK JANUARY 31). ACCORDING TO GUYER, VINOGRADOV TOLD HIM SYRIA WAS NOT INTERESTED IN DIS-ENGAGEMENT AND DID NOT CONSIDER IT RELEVANT TO QUESTION OF SYRIAN PARTICIPATION IN GENEVA CONFERENCE. VINOGRADOV ALSO SUGGESTED TO GUYER THAT CONFERENCE--PROBABLY THE CO-SPONSORS, GUYER COMMENTED--COULD MAKE DECISION IN PRINCIPLE THAT PALESTINIANS WOULD BE INVITED IN DUE COURSE TO TAKE PART IN CONFERENCE, WITHOUT ACTUALLY ISSUING INVITATION FOR SUCH PARTICIPATION, AND THAT THIS MIGHT HAVE IMPACT ON SYRIANS.

5. DELOFF WITHOUT COMMENT THANKED GUYER FOR INFORMATION.

6. COMMENT: IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO TELL FROM GUYER'S REMARKS WHETHER HE ACTUALLY BELIEVED DEVICE RE PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION AT CONFERENCE SUCH AS ABOVE SUGGESTED "DECISION IN PRINCIPLE" WOULD BE NEEDED TO GET SYRIANS TO COME TO GENEVA, AND WHETHER IT WAS PURELY VINOGRADOV'S IDEA OR GUYER HAD HELPED IN COOKING IT UP.BASSIN

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